



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 9, 2015

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CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 2015

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at 132.60 million pounds, up 58 percent from the 2014 crop, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Acreage harvested is expected to total 78,000 acres, up 17,000 acres from the 61,000 harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 1,700 pounds per acre, up from 1,380 pounds per acre last year.

Alfalfa hay production in Montana is forecast to total 3.80 million tons this year, down from the 3.89 million tons produced in 2014. Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.90 million acres of alfalfa hay this year, up 50,000 acres from 2014. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 2.00 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 2.10 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.80 tons per acre. Producers expect to harvest 900,000 acres of **other hay** in 2015, up 20,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.53 million tons, up 2 percent from 1.50 million tons a year ago. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.70 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.70 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast 1.90 tons per acre.

Sugarbeet production in Montana is forecast at 1.36 million tons, down 5 percent from the 1.43 million tons produced in 2014. Growers expect to harvest 43,800 acres this year compared with 44,400 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 31.0 tons per acre, up 0.4 tons per acre from the September 1 forecast but down from last year's yield of 32.3 tons per acre. As of September 27, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 8 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 10 percent complete, compared with 3 percent last year and the 5 year average of 6 percent.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first **canola** production forecast for 2015 is 3.09 billion pounds, up 23 percent from 2014, and will be the largest production on record, if realized. Area planted, at a record high 1.79 million acres, is up 14 percent from the June estimate and up 4 percent from last year. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.73 million acres, up 13 percent from June and up 11 percent from 2014. Harvested area for the Nation will be the largest on record, if realized. The October yield forecast, at 1,791 pounds per acre, is 177 pounds above last year's yield and will be the second highest on record, if realized.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2015 is forecast at 63.2 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 3 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from August and up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from August, but down less than 1 percent from 2014.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 79.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the August forecast but up 1 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton from August but up 0.04 ton from last year. If realized, yield would be a record high for the United States. Harvested area is forecast at 38.2 million acres, unchanged from August but down 1 percent from 2014.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2015 crop year is forecast at 34.8 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 11 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but down slightly from 2014. Expected yield is forecast at 30.4 tons per acre, an increase of 0.2 ton from the previous forecast and up 3.0 tons from last year.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.

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